Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Pre-Preliminary Exam: Test 1**

**Short Stories Poems Drama**

1) Princess September 1) I Believe Merchant

Of

2) A Tiger in the Tunnel 2) Psalm of life Venice (Act I)

**Std X Set E**

**Marks 40 1 hour**

**Q.1)**

**Ans i)** Bassanio needs three thousand ducats to able to go to Belmont to win Portia. He wants to hold a rival place among other suitors. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The merchant of Venice that is Antonio doesn’t have the amount of money at present. He usually does not take money on interest or give money by charging interest. He is making an exception here due to the ripe wants of Bassanio. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Shylock says these lines when Bassanio introduces Antonio to him and Shylock was lost in his thoughts. To cover up Shylock says that he had been mentally calculating the amount that he has presently with him. And he thinks that he would at present not have the sum of money currently. **3 marks**

**Q.2)**

**Ans i)** Salerio (Salarino). He has been trying to cheer up Antonio by giving different instance. **2** **marks**

**Ans ii)** Lorenzo notices that Antonio and Bassanio who are great friends have met. He does not want to disturb their interaction and decides to leave. He is planning to meet up again at dinner time. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Gratiano says that Antonio is not looking well. The ones who have too much of respect upon the world and are too careful about everything lose the art of living life. He says that Antonio is marvellously changes and indicates that he is looking to melancholy. **3 marks**

**Q. 3)**

**Ans i)** In the absence of the bird, September’s eight jealous sisters ill fed her and made her nervous by the thought of losing her bird forever. These insecure thoughts are the ones mentioned here. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The birds and animals have been described as selfless and kind. They are far better than the human beings. The bird selflessly appears to soothe the princess’ ailing heart and gets quite close to her but the princess’ sisters brainwash her. Also they are shown as loving their freedom and relishing the nature around. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** As Princess September obeyed her sister’s advice, she caged the bird. The bird’s freedom was taken away but it refused to approve that the golden cage and all the attention was more important. Thus, it stopped eating and singing and was on the verge of dying. The princess realised her mistake on time and set the bird free. Her actions were not justified and were selfish as the captivity was disliked by the bird. **3 marks**

**Q.4)**

**Points to be covered in the answer:-**carried a small axe, fragile to look at, deadly in use, with three or four swift strokes, could cut down a tree, as neatly as if he had been sawn, prided himself in his skill in wielding it against the wild animals, killed a young boar and the family feasted on the flesh for three days- the axe-head made of pure steel- thin but ringing time like bell- made by his father over a charcoal fire- part of himself- the axe would be with him wherever he went- official who had come offered him a good money but he decided not to part away with- **8 marks**

**Q.5)**

**Ans i)** The world is compared to a battlefield and every man is a hero in the battle of life. Soldier fights bravely in the battlefield, faces all the hurdles and emerges as a hero. Similarly, the poet wants to convey that everyone must face the hurdles of life with courage. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** Dumb driven cattle means the people who follow norms without questioning or realising why they are doing it. Many of us are not rational in thinking and accept the assessment of other people and follow that blindly. The poet wants us to be rational in our approach. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** To be a brave heart within and to have faith on God who is above all of us in the heaven to take care of us and to watch over our actions. The poet wants us to work wholeheartedly to achieve our goals and have patience and faith in the Almighty. **3 marks**

**Q. 6)**

**Ans i)** Piercing the heavens and see the angels playing, soaring to the heights of the sky to touch the silky clouds and feel the stars, to dive in to the depths of the oceans and swim with the sharks, to claw in the earth’s crust and pick the priceless gems and to adorn herself with them. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** Yes, the role assigned proves to be hindrance as her duties and her responsibility happen to be more important than her dreams. In fulfilling these responsibilities it is quite likely that she may have to sacrifice some of her dreams and aspirations. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** In atmosphere that is in the sky she believes to pierce the heavens and to see the angels playing. In lithosphere meaning the earth’s crust she believes to dig in to it and pick up the precious gems to adorn herself. In hydrosphere she wishes to dive in the ocean into the depths of the ocean and swim with the sharks. **3 marks**